CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method to protect assets within a defined region against the threat of fire, comprising the steps of:

A) positioning aerial forest fire fighting assets within a range allowing the assets to reach and attack a surveyed fire anywhere within a periphery of one or more strategic assets within 60 minutes of issuance of an order to attack a fire;

B) integrating available regional ground fire fighting assets to follow up initial forest fire aerial attacks;

C) continually surveying of the periphery of the strategic assets using one or more sensors, the periphery being at least ten miles in radius;

D) gathering surveillance data from sensors in a central command;

E) analyzing surveillance data according to user defined algorithms and database data in the central command;

F) generating an alarm status in the central command based on comparison of the analysis of surveillance data with reference data;

G) alerting the aerial forest fighting assets when the comparison justifies such alerting, such alerting being communicated by the central command;

H) initiating an order to aerial attack a detected fire using the aerial forest fighting assets, when the comparison justifies such order, such order being issued by the central command;

I) alerting hierarchical superior fire fighting command and control assets when the comparison justifies such alerting, such alerting being communicated by the central command; and

J) repeating steps C through I when the comparison justifies repeating the steps.

2.The method of claim 1 wherein the sensor is an optical sensor to sense fire, glow or smoke.

3.The method of claim 1 wherein the aerial forest fire fighting assets on quick reaction alert are positioned within a range allowing the assets to reach and attack a fire within 15 minutes of issuance of an order to attack a fire.

4.The method of claim 1 wherein the analysis of surveillance data by way of suitable algorithms and database data is performed by a central computing device.

5.The method of claim 1 wherein the alerting and alarming and ordering is initiated and executed by a central computing device.

6.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include at least part of a municipality.

7.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include high value assets.

8.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include military assets.

9.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include industrial assets.

10.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include commercial assets.

11.The method of claim 1 wherein the aerial fire fighting assets are suitable for use in urban areas and augmented with ground fire fighting assets.

12.The method of claim 11 wherein the strategic assets include urban assets.

13.The method of claim 1 wherein the aerial fire fighting assets are replaced by ground fire fighting assets.

14.The method of claim 13 wherein the strategic assets include urban assets.

15.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include human life.

16.The method of claim 11 wherein the strategic assets include human life.

17.The method of claim 13 wherein the strategic assets include human life.